



PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

(11 & 12 Vict. Cap. 63.)

14815

REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

INTO THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND SUPPLY OF
WATER, AND THE SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE INHABITANTS

OF THE PARISH OF

A B E R D A R E,

IN THE COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN.

By THOMAS WEBSTER RAMMELL, Esq.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON :

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.:

NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 1st day of ^{December} ~~October~~ next, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on a preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Parish of ABERDARE, in the County of Glamorgan; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

C. MACAULAY, *Secretary.*

17th October
Whitchall, ~~23^d July~~ 1853.

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MAP OF THE PARISH OF ABERDARE.

Scale 2 inches = 1 Mile.



Hirwaun Iron Works

Mynydd
Aberdare

MERTHYR
TYDFIL

Hirwaun
Wrgan

Station
TAFF VALE RAILWAY

Moetan ydan

Blach-naf
Cae
Wrfu

Cefn-cyren

Aberdare
Abernant House

Cefn-rhos-gwawr


Cefn-pe-og
Ty-peny-graig

Castell uos

Aberamanon

Craig Efal-dau

Mynydd
Bach



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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.)

Report to the General Board of Health on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Parish of ABERDARE, in the County of Glamorgan
By THOMAS WEBSTER RAMMELL, Esq., Superintending Inspector.

4, Trafalgar Square, London,
11th April 1853.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

It appearing, upon a Return from the Registrar-General, that the mortality in the parish of Aberdare, in the county of Glamorgan, upon an average of seven years, was more than at the rate of 23 to 1,000 inhabitants, you were pleased to direct me to institute a Preliminary Inquiry into the sanitary condition of that place, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and with respect to the following matters, viz:—

The sewerage, drainage, and supply of water;

The state of the burial grounds;

The number and sanitary condition of the inhabitants;

The local Acts of Parliament (if any) in force within the parish, for paving, lighting, cleansing, watching, regulating, supplying with water, or improving the same, or having relation to the purposes of the Public Health Act, 1848;

The natural drainage areas;

The existing municipal, parochial, or other local boundaries, and the boundaries which may be most advantageously adopted for the purposes of the Public Health Act, 1848;

And as to other matters with respect to which your Honourable Board was desirous of being informed.

It may be proper here to state, that the attention of the Board was first directed to the bad sanitary condition of this parish by the representations of some of its inhabitants, and by resolutions passed at a recent Vestry Meeting, which

were communicated to the Board by the Vicar in a letter, which ran as follows:—

“Vicarage, Aberdare, Glamorganshire,
“ My LORDS AND GENTLEMEN, “ October 9, 1852.

“ MAY I respectfully request the attention of your Honourable Board to the following resolution, extracted from the Minute Book of this parish:—

“ At a Vestry Meeting, held at the Vestry room, on Thursday, the 7th of October 1852, pursuant to adjournment, for the purpose of considering the expediency of placing this parish under the provisions of the Public Health Act:

“ On the motion of Mr. H. A. Bruce, seconded by Mr. Fothergill, it was resolved—That this Meeting deemed it expedient that this parish shall, as soon as possible, place itself under the provisions of the Public Health Act.

“ JOHN GRIFFITH, Vicar, Chairman.’

“ As there is no opposition offered to it, we have been advised that the forwarding of a copy of the resolution passed in vestry would be sufficient to induce your Honourable Board, if you should think fit, to send down an Inspector to make the usual Preliminary Inquiries. If this, however, be not sufficient, I shall be obliged, on the part of this parish, if your Honourable Board will inform me if any further steps be required.

“ I have the honour to be, &c.

“ JOHN GRIFFITH,
“ Vicar of Aberdare.”

“ The General Board of Health,
“ London.”

In compliance with the direction of your Honourable Board, I caused the proper notice to be issued of my intention to hold a Preliminary Inquiry on the 10th of January 1853, at the Boot Inn, at Aberdare, when I should be prepared to hear all persons desirous of being heard by me on the subject of it.

Amongst those who attended the meeting in the course of the inquiry, were the Rev. John Griffith, the vicar; the Rev. Thomas Price, Baptist minister; David Davies, Esq., of Blaen Gwawr; Philip Taylor, Esq., of Hirwain; Mr. Hopkin Rhys, mineral agent to the Aberdare Iron Company; Messrs. Watkin Rhys and David Davis, surgeons; Messrs. Belhuel Williams, Phillip John, and David Davis, jun.

Having proved the due publication and affixing of the notices required by the Act, I briefly opened the proceedings, explaining that there were two grounds upon which the Board of Health was empowered to institute inquiries of this description; the one being the presentation of a petition signed by not less than one tenth of the rated inhabitants of the place; and the other, the fact that the

mortality of the place, upon a series of seven years, was greater than at the rate of 23 in 1,000 of the inhabitants; and that it was upon the latter ground that the General Board had instituted the present inquiry. I then gave some explanation of the principal provisions of the Act; after which I proceeded to hear evidence, and continued to do so on the following day. I also personally inspected various parts of the village and surrounding district.

Of the information thus obtained, I have now the honour to submit the following Report.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—Aberdare is a village, contributory to the Merthyr Tydvil Parliamentary district, and lies distant about four miles from that town. It is situate in a valley, on the south-west branch of the Cynon, at the point of confluence of the river Dare.

The parish of Aberdare is of large extent, containing about 16,000 acres of land, one half of which is uninclosed or mountain common. It is placed about midway in the length, and on the northern edge of the South Wales coal field, and, with the exception of about 500 acres, abounds in minerals. These minerals were first worked about ninety years ago, but on a very small scale until within the last fifty years. The population has vastly increased of late.

The old village of Aberdare is situate near the centre of the parish. It now contains about 5,000 persons—that is to say, within the limits of the town as laid down by the Commissioners of the County Roads Board. Both above and below the old town there is a continuous line of houses extending along the valley line for a mile and a half each way. At the northern extremity of the parish is the village of Hirwain, containing about 1,800 inhabitants in that portion contained in Aberdare parish; and at the southern extremity is a village called Mountain Ash, with a population of about 1,000.

There are, besides, the detached hamlets of Cwm-bach, with about 1,000 inhabitants, on the opposite side of the river, nearly opposite Aberamman; Llwydcoed, also on the eastern side of the river, with a population of nearly 1,000; and Cwm Amman on the western side, about a mile above Aberamman. Detached houses are springing up in all directions as the coal workings are extended and opened.

Coal and Iron Works.—The principal works within the parish are the Aberdare Iron Works; the Gadlys Iron Works; the Aberamman Iron Works, and the mineral portion of the Hirwain Iron Works; the Blaen Gwawr Colliery; the Aber Gwawr Colliery; the Aberamman Colliery;

the Cwm Amman Colliery; the Middle Dyffryn Colliery; the Lletty Shenkin Colliery; the Upper Dyffryn Colliery; the Aber Nant-y-groes Colliery; the Aberdare Coal Company's Colliery; the Wherfa Colliery; the Ysguborwen Colliery; the Dyffryn Dare Colliery. There are, besides, a great number of new collieries in process of opening.

Wages.—The wages of the district, although of course subject to much fluctuation, may be stated, ordinarily, as follows:—

Miners	-	-	-	-	-	12s. to 14s. a week.
Colliers in the iron works	-	-	-	-	-	15s. „ 17s. „
Colliers getting sea coal	-	-	-	-	-	20s. „ 25s. „
Puddlers	-	-	-	-	-	30s. „
Furnace men	-	-	-	-	-	25s. „ 30s. „
Rollers and ballers	-	-	-	-	-	35s. „ 40s. „
Navigators and patch men	-	-	-	-	-	15s. „
Agricultural labourers	-	-	-	-	-	12s. „ 15s. „

Employment is regular, except in the case of sea coal colliers.

Poor Rates.—The poor rates have been usually about 2s. 8d. in the pound yearly. Last year they were reduced to 2s. in the pound.

From 20 to 25 persons receive casual relief weekly; but this, it appears, is entirely in cases of illness or accidents; the weekly cost being about 4l. or 5l.

Accidents at Coal Pits.—There have been numerous and very fatal accidents in the course of the last four years from explosions in coal pits. In July 1845, there was an explosion at the Upper Dyffryn Colliery, by which 29 persons lost their lives; in August 1849, an explosion took place at the Lletty Shenkin Colliery, by which 52 lives were lost; in December 1850, an explosion took place at the Middle Dyffryn, which resulted in the death of 8 persons. In the summer of 1851, 14 persons lost their lives from the breaking of a chain at the Wherfa Colliery. The last great accident was occasioned by an explosion of gas at the Middle Dyffryn Colliery (May 1852), when 65 persons were killed.

Mr. Rhys stated, that single deaths from accidents at the works were very common, being thought to average about 20 every year.

Railways and Canals.—There are two railways running through the parish; the Vale of Neath Railway in connexion with the South Wales Railway, and the Aberdare Railway in connexion with the Taff Vale line. Other railways are projected.

There is also a canal to Cardiff.

Floods.—Being situated in a valley, at the point of confluence of two rivers, part of the village is sometimes subject to floods, which have been known to be of several days continuance. These are said to be aggravated by the railway bridges across the river.

AREA, HOUSES, POPULATION.—The total area of the parish is 16,000 acres.

Population.—The population of the parish was in 1841, 6,471; in 1851, 14,999; it is now 16,000; and is increasing at a greater ratio than ever.

Rateable Value.—The present gross rateable value of property in the parish is 37,406*l.*; of this amount 8,869*l.* 10*s.* is for cottages, the owners of which compound for their rates, under the Small Tenements Act, for about 4,500*l.*; about 13,000*l.* for coal works; about 3,000*l.* for land and farm works; about 12,000*l.* for houses, including factories, warehouses, &c.; the remainder, about 1,000*l.*, being for railways, canal, tithes, &c.

Mr. Howell Williams, assistant overseer, stated that the present rating was supposed to be taken at four fifths of the estimated rental; and that a new valuation was then making, which, it was expected, would amount to about 50,000*l.*

VITAL STATISTICS.—The following is the return of the Registrar General of the mortality in this place during the years 1845-51:—

A RETURN of DEATHS in the Parish of ABERDARE, in the County of Glamorgan, in each of the seven years ending 1851, together with the average annual Proportion of Deaths to 1,000 living at that period; also the number of Deaths in each of the same years from the Zymotic class of Diseases.

Population in 1841 - - - 6,471
Population in 1851 - - - 14,999

Years	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	Total	Average annual mortality per 1,000
All Deaths	237	205	260	249	503	312	414	2,180	26
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	58	42	83	67	226	87	119	682	—

The following table gives a return of the births and deaths during the seven years 1846—52, as furnished by the Superintendent Registrar of the district:—

RETURN OF BIRTHS and DEATHS in the Parish of ABERDARE during the seven years, 1846—52.

Years.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.					
	Total births.	Under 5 years.	Above 5 years and under 10 years.	Above 10 years and under 20 years.	Above 20 years.	Total deaths.	Deaths from epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases.
1846	342	105	10	7	90	212	27
1847	351	126	9	17	106	258	70
1848	452	119	7	16	107	249	57
1849	493	171	28	43	258	500	202
1850	567	142	15	19	135	311	78
1851	594	212	15	49	141	417	110
1852	756	293	24	65	212	594	215
Totals -	3,555	1,168	108	216	1,049	2,541	759
Mean rates for each of the above years.	508.1	167.1	15	31	150	363	108

I certify the above to be a correct Return.

FRANK JAMES,
Superintendent Registrar.

From this table it appears that there have been 3,555 births, and 2,541 deaths in the seven years ending 1852, leaving a balance of 1,014 towards increase of population. This number, however, forms but a very small proportion of the actual gross increase which has taken place in the same period, which may be fairly estimated at between 5,000 and 6,000. The great bulk of the increase, therefore, must be accounted for by immigration. This fact is not unimportant when considering the mortality of a place, particularly when it happens to be the seat of an active and increasing industry. Immigrants into such districts being generally adults—at least in greater than the average proportion—and able bodied, their accession would reduce the proportion of deaths to the population, and increase the apparent average longevity. Yet with all these advantages we find that at Aberdare, taking the average number of the population during the seven years at 13,000,—

1. The gross mortality has been at the rate of 28 to 1,000 of the population.

2. The deaths under 5 years of age have been at the rate of 46 per cent. upon the whole number of deaths; and the deaths under 20 years of age have been 60 per cent. of the whole mortality.

3. The proportion of deaths from epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases has been always large—sometimes enormously so. The gross numbers in the seven years have been 759, or 30 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. The deaths from these causes appear to be increasing in number and their relative proportion to other deaths, viz., in 1849 (the year of the cholera), 40; in 1852 at the rate of 36 per cent. of the whole number of deaths.

GOVERNMENT.—*Market Act.*—The only local Act in force within this parish is one entitled, “An Act for establishing a Market, and for providing a Market-house and Slaughter-houses at Aberdare,” and which was obtained in the last Session of Parliament by a Joint Stock Company. It empowers the raising of a capital of 3,000*l.* in 600 original shares of 5*l.* each, and 2,000*l.* additional in 400 shares of the same amount; and further, the borrowing on mortgage or bond of 1,000*l.* on the original shares, and one third of the 2,000*l.*; making in all a power of raising money to the extent of 7,000*l.*

The operation of the Act is confined to the town of Aberdare, whose limits for these purposes are about three miles up and down the valley by about one mile across. These limits are considerably less in every way than the boundaries of the parish.

The Company have already obtained a site, adjoining the Aberdare Railway Station, for the Market-house and Slaughter-houses, and are now erecting those buildings, which are to be completed by the 1st of July next. The condition of the present slaughter-houses is thus described by Mr. D. Davis:—

“There is at present no regulation whatever of existing slaughter-houses. Every butcher now slaughters when he likes, and where he likes, and how he likes. The present slaughter-houses are very numerous; they are mostly in the principal streets, and near the centre of the village, and have been kept in such a manner as to cause much complaint. Beasts have been seen rushing through the streets, having broken out of the slaughter-houses after they had been struck down. These slaughter-houses generally drain into the street their blood and filth, and the stench from this cause is a great nuisance in hot weather.”

Highways.—The highways of the parish are now managed by a Board of Highways, which was established about four years ago. The extent of highways is about 35 miles. The annual cost of repairing them is about 500*l.*, which sum is raised by a 5*d.* rate upon the present valuation.

The Highway Board employ a surveyor at a salary of 45*l.* a year, and also a clerk at a salary of 20*l.*

In the repair of the roads a good deal of limestone is used, in addition to the common pebbles of the country. Cinders are also extensively used. These materials seem to answer the purpose very well; and it was stated that there had been a considerable improvement in the state of the roads since the Highway Board was established, whilst, at the same time, the expense had been reduced. Previously to the establishment of this Board, the highways were managed by overseers appointed by the four divisions of the parish, who were changed annually, and were unpaid.

There are still many roads in the town which have not yet been dedicated to the public, and these are nearly all in a very bad state, and some almost, if not quite, impassable.

The footpaths in the town are made and maintained by the owners of the houses facing them.

Turnpike Roads.—There are about 8½ miles of turnpike road in the parish, which are all under the management of the County Roads Board. There is much complaint of the state of that portion of the turnpike road below Aberdare. Many complaints were made of the state of the roads.

Mr. *David Davis*, surgeon, stated,—

“The roads are so bad that they are not fit for a horse to travel upon. My horse is so accustomed to go upon the pavements that he will walk up steps as well as I can.”

Gasworks.—Lighting.—Gasworks were established in the parish in 1849 by a Joint Stock Company provisionally registered, who worked them themselves for the first year, but have now leased them to Messrs. Wayne and Jones for seven years from January 1851. The works are situated at Aber-gwawr. Their original cost was about 2,500*l.*, and about 2,000*l.* more has since been expended for their extension.

The Rhonda coal is used, the Aberdare coal not being sufficiently bituminous.

The pipes are laid throughout the populated portion of the parish, with the exception of Hirwain and Cwm-bach. There is, however, no public lighting, whatever; there are only four or five street lamps in the place, and these are paid for by private individuals.

Mr. *Thomas Price* states,—

“It is generally felt that public lighting is much wanted. Besides other considerations, which are obvious, there are those of safety to the traffic of the streets, which are, many of them, narrow and with sharp turns.”

He adds, however,—

“Nevertheless it has been urged as an objection to public lighting, that with more light the police might not be able to pounce upon wary offenders.”

Charge for Private Lighting.—The same witness states,—

“The lessees of the works are limited by the Company to a charge of 7s. per 1,000 cubic feet, and this is what is charged. There is a feeling, pretty generally, that the gas can and ought to be supplied at a cheaper rate, and that the present works are inadequate to meet the demand.”

It does not appear, however, that any representation had been made to the Company upon these points.

Vagrant Lodging Houses.—Overcrowding.—There are five vagrant lodging-houses, all in the middle of the village. They are under no regulation whatever; the police having no right to enter any except one, which is also a public house.

Robert Parsons, serjeant of police, states,—

“The overcrowding is excessive. In one small room there are five beds. It is common to find three in a bed, and mostly quite naked—male and female in the same room. The roof or ceiling is so low that in one case there is not room for one to sit up in bed. There is no drainage whatever, and no privy; nor, indeed, the right to the use of a privy to any of these houses. Much of the filth and slops of these houses is thrown into the street; the rest is carried down to an ash-heap at the end of a blind alley, and which is much complained of by the neighbours.

“The charge is 3*d.* a night to a single lodger, or 6*d.* for a bed to a family, who then crowd in as many as they can.

“There are often rows at these places. The landlord of one of the houses has now his arm broken, and in a sling, which occurred in a fray.”

DRAINAGE.—With the exception of two or three culverts of short length, the town may almost be said to be wholly without provision for drainage. It is all left to individuals, who, of course, where no system already exists, are unable to do anything.

Mr. *John Jones*, vestry clerk, and clerk of the Highways Board, states,—

“I believe there is no general system of drainage in the place; only such as individuals adopt for their own convenience. There

are two or three culverts. One commencing at the churchyard, passes down part of High-street, then across private property, and discharges into the Dare, below the Factory Weir. This line is very short, not more than 200 yards long. Another line runs from near the Black Lion Inn along Commercial-place, and afterwards empties into the river. Another short culvert runs from near the Post Inn parallel with the Cardiff-road, and empties into the river Cynon, about 100 yards above the canal. The second described has a good fall; and, I think, is an efficient culvert. The first I have known obstructed within the last three or four years; it has a tolerable fall. The last is very flat, and quite inefficient. It has been expensively constructed, and cost 25s. a yard."

There are privies in connexion with all these culverts, and they take the surface waters as well. There are hundreds of houses in the town which have no drainage whatever, and the inhabitants of which get rid of their refuse by throwing it into the streets, except such portions as pass into cesspits, where the latter exist. In many instances the privies are so situated that they empty into an open ditch, the stench from which, particularly in summer, is most offensive and unwholesome. This is the case with one side of Commercial-road; and one witness stated that,—

"In summer the stink was so bad here that people could hardly walk by on the public path which leads to the parish church."

Cesspits, however, are very numerous; they are generally sunk down three or four feet, and having no outlet whatever, and being seldom emptied, the refuse overflows the surrounding surface. The soil being a stiff yellow clay, none of it soaks away.

Mr. *Thomas Price* states,—

"A large number of the houses between this and Aberaman, and also in the town itself, have cesspits without any outlet. Bute-street is in this state; and in many cases the liquids have overflowed already, and even run into the houses. Many of the houses here are newly built, and the nuisance is not so bad as it will be in the course of a few years. Scores upon scores of houses are in this state. A very large proportion of the houses upon Lord Bute's property are so circumstanced—Bute street, Wrgan-row, Hirwain-row, Club-row, and others."

The utter neglect of sanitary considerations with which the houses intended for the occupancy of the labouring classes are run up, is further described by the same witness; referring to the places already mentioned, he states,—

"In these parts the houses are built in lines; but no street has been paved, excepting Bute-street,—that is to say, the road surface has not been metalled, paved, or drained. The builders

of the cottages generally put down a paving four feet wide in front of the cottages; but in the way of forming the streets and pitching the drains, the landlord has done nothing.

“The ground allowed by Lord Bute is very narrow; so much so that privies, where they exist, are built within about 15 feet of the houses; and, in most cases, there is a fall towards the houses, and very often the bottom of the cesspool itself is above the floor of the houses. The consequence is, that there is a constant soakage of filth through the loam which covers the clay towards the houses, many of which are hardly bearable in consequence.

“On the Ynyslwyd estate a large number of cottages are now being built upon a piece of land near the Baptist Chapel, where privies have been made by the owners in every case; but in no case are there any drains, or culverts for carrying off the filth, notwithstanding that the field lies most favourably for drainage. The landlord here, however, has done more than has been done on Lord Bute’s property (with the exception of a solitary instance where the owner and occupiers contributed a portion of the expense); that is, he has made and metalled the road on that property. Nevertheless the same irruption of liquids, and saturation of the soil, described as occurring in other parts, will, no doubt, take place here also in time.”

Deficiency of Privy Accommodation.—Of the deficiency of privy accommodation, and the habits of uncleanness which it leads to, this witness states,—

“There are whole rows of houses without any privy at all; the inmates having no place to go to excepting the fields. Sometimes they make use of utensils, which are kept on the premises; but, generally, they resort to the fields, or byways, or even the streets, and they are not particular to go far out of the way. The exposure occasioned is a great nuisance; women can hardly pass through some parts of the town in consequence. All sense of decency is lost for want of proper convenience, and the moral effect of this practice is very bad. What with the filth thrown out of the houses, and deposited on the surface of the streets and neighbouring thoroughfares, the town, especially in hot weather, is in a most offensive condition. The paths leading to the church are in a most offensive state. In nine cases out of ten the kitchen and house liquids are thrown directly out upon the surface of the streets; the filth and stench in consequence are intolerable. In short, of all proper sanitary provisions of this kind, the town is entirely destitute.”

Worst Quarters of the Town.—The general picture above given applies too generally to this town and neighbourhood. It will be proper, however, to mention a few quarters which may be described as worse than the others, viz:—

1. *Green Bach*, where there are a large number of houses crowded together upon a very limited space, without any street paving, drainage of any kind, or ventilation. These houses have, most of them, been lately built.

2. A collection of houses near the canal, terminating in a blind street. Here there are no privies, no drains, or ventilation. A poor class of houses built some thirty or forty years ago.

3. *Cobblers-row*, near the Vicarage; a cluster of houses without back doors, back windows, or back openings of any kind. There is always an accumulation of liquid filth before these houses, notwithstanding that there is every convenience for drainage into the brook close by.

4. A row of houses called *Arch-row*, and another called *Big-row*. These are double houses, that is houses below, and houses above, being built in the side of a steep hill; the upper houses being entered from what would be the back of the lower ones if they came up so high. None of these houses have back doors, and the lower ones no back-lets of any kind; the latter also, from their position against a sloping ground, are constantly exposed to damp. There are here no privies, nor house drains of any kind; but being quite on the outskirts of the town, the absence of the former accommodation may perhaps be less objectionable, on some accounts, than if situated nearer to the mass of dwellings.

5. *Moss-row* and *Little-row* are single houses; but, in other respects, similar to those last described.

6. *Aberamman-road*.—Mr. Price states,—

“There are many double rows of houses on the Aberamman-road, the lower tier of which every time we have a heavy fall of rain are filled from one to two feet deep with water. I have seen this some eight or ten times this winter. This is due to the low situation of the houses, which are but very little above the river Cynon, the principal stream in this valley, and which rises considerably and very rapidly. The water backs up from the culvert near, and enters these houses. Of course, the houses are left after such floods in an extremely damp state, which does not soon go off.”

A large cluster of houses in Aberamman, called *Tre-amman*, almost a small town in itself, has no roads made. There are a few drains, but of a very inefficient kind, and most of the houses are upon a boggy swampy ground, although lying at a high level, and therefore very susceptible of drainage. The inhabitants of these houses have suffered a great deal from ague—indeed, are notorious for it; and Mr. Price states that “this disease had not been known in the parish for twenty years until these houses were built.”

The Rev. John Griffith, the vicar, described Mill-street, an extensive quarter of the town lying on the north-west

side, as being generally in a better condition as respects drainage than the parts before noticed. Parts, here, however,—for instance those along the tramroad,—are very bad.

Mr. *Griffiths* states,—

“There is not, to my knowledge, a place in Aberdare more filthy than the neighbourhood of the Royal Oak in the same quarter of the town. Mill-street proper is in a very bad state from the ash-heaps of rubbish and filth thrown into and lying on the centre of the road. All that has been said on the subject of privy accommodation is quite applicable to Mill-street. The lie of the ground here is very favourable for drainage, but there is no such thing as a public sewer.”

Mr. *Rhys* states,—

“The natural position of the Mill-street quarter is most favourable for health, being upon the side of a rising ground lying between the river Cynon and Hirwain Common, with a great deal of open country near. Many of the houses in this quarter are of a very inferior description, and these have no privy accommodation whatever. The new houses, here, as a rule, have one privy for two houses.”

Outlying Districts.—Robert's Town.—Robert's Town is the name of a collection of sixty or eighty houses built upon a plot of low-lying ground near the river Cynon, being but a few feet above the bed of it. It has been completely severed by tramroads and railways from the rest of the parish, and has no road communication with it, so that no cart can pass from or to it. “Indeed,” Mr. Rhys states, “the people are only allowed to go to and from their dwellings by sufferance. A road has been projected, but there is some difficulty still about making it.” There is no drainage in this place. The ground being flat, and about a foot below the houses, the refuse from the overflow of privies and other stagnates on the surface. The subsoil is gravel. It is not subject to floods, however, the river having a good channel opposite. Mr. *Rhys* states, “This is, I, believe, a most unhealthy quarter, in the autumn and spring nearly always enveloped in fog and mist.”

Hirwain lies at the extreme north-west of the parish, and is only partly within it. Out of 3,000 inhabitants about 1,200 are dwelling in the parish of Pen-derrin, in the county of Brecon, which commences on the opposite side of the river. The condition of this part, both with respect to the want of drainage and proper privy accommodation, may be described as very similar to that of the village of Aberdare. The whole of this property belongs to Lord Bute, who has put in two large drains, but it is said they do not act well.

Cwm Bach is a part lying to the south-east of the town, and consists of 300 or 400 houses. It lies near the river on a flat low ground, and is traversed by the canal. It is described as one of the worst parts of the parish as regards drainage and privy accommodation. There is no road whatever here; and a great number of the houses are so situated that no cart, and in some cases not even a horse, could approach them. The greater part adjoins the canal; and this part is as badly off as can well be conceived, having no means of getting rid of ashes, or any sort of refuse.

WATER SUPPLY.—There is no public provision for water supply. In a very few cases there are wells sunk in private premises; but the great bulk of the inhabitants, indeed the whole of them (with the exception of those having wells), are supplied from natural springs or spouts, which are scattered at great distances apart. The principal of these are the Darran Spout, situate near the centre of the old village of Aberdare; Maes y dre Well, at the back of Commercial-street; Blaen Gwawr Spout, situate in Mr. Davis's private property; Mill-street Spouts, two in number; and a well at Hirwain. Aberamman is particularly badly off in this respect, there being no spout in that part, though the water of a small brook is sometimes made use of. Under the best circumstances the people here have to fetch their water from places above a quarter of a mile distant, and at times they have to go a mile and upwards.

Mr. *Thomas Price* states,—

“There is much waiting at the spouts; three hours for a turn is no uncommon time. People have been known to go for water immediately after their dinner at twelve o'clock, and return at six o'clock without any, their turn not having come round. They get up frequently at two or three o'clock in the morning to go for water. A hundred jugs in a row are at times seen at the spouts. There is much immorality at the spouts, from people waiting there, and having nothing to do.

“In Aberdare town itself the supply in winter is abundant, but still it has to be fetched from long distances, a quarter of a mile is a very common distance. In summer the supply is not abundant; and there is the same waiting at the spouts, although to a less extent than before described. An hour and a half, or two hours, is a common time to wait. Many persons are to be seen at the spouts at midnight.

“At Hirwain the scarcity of water and the waiting for turns at the spout, in summer, are much the same as at Aberdare. The case of the Mill-street quarter is very similar. At *Cwm-bach* the water is less scarce, but the quality is much complained

of. Much of it obtained on the lower side of the canal has oozed through its banks."

With regard to the quality of the various waters this witness states,—

"The Darran Spout and the Macs y dre Well have the reputation of yielding the best waters. The Hirwain water, which takes its rise on the Farewell rock, that is below all the minerals, is said to be very pure. The Mill-street water is good.

"The private wells mostly in summer yield a water almost unfit for use from mineral impregnations. The water becomes quite red after exposure to the air for a short time.

"The spring water is all hard. For washing purposes water is principally obtained from the rivers and brooks in the neighbourhood. These are all said to yield a very soft water, with the exception of the Cynon, which rises from the primitive limestone, and is comparatively hard."

This witness adds,—

"The deficient supply of water in summer causes very great inconvenience, and even suffering, oven in the best circumstanced parts of the town. With the increase of population going on at present, unless some artificial provision be made, the evil will becomo a very serious one."

Mr. *Watkins Rhys*, surgeon, states,—

"The quality of the water at Aberdare is very bad; much charged with impurities."

Appended is a Report from Mr. *Holland* upon an analysis of eight samples of water from Aberdare.

"REPORT on a Preliminary Examination of eight specimens of water from Aberdare, near South Wales.

"No. 1. *Rhiw ddu Spring.*

"The water was bright and clear, except a few particles resembling fine sand. No taste, colour, or smell; agreeable to drink.

"Tests showed the presenee of a little muriate of lime.

"Hardness rather more than 1°.

"This water, though very pure, and almost entirely free from foreign matter, acted very slightly upon lead.

"No. 2. *Pen Rhiw Llech Spring.*

"This water resembles the last almost exactly; it contains scarcely anything but a very little muriate of lime and probably of soda.

"The hardness is less than 2°.

"It acts rather more than the last upon lead, but still very slightly.

"No. 3. *The Gwawr Spring.*

"This water was bright and clear, without colour or smell, but had a slight peaty taste.

“Tests showed the presence of sulphates and muriates of lime and magnesia, but in very small quantity.

“Its hardness is rather more than 1° .

“Except for the slightly peaty taste, this water is quite unobjectionable.

“No. 4. *Maes y dre Spring.*

“This water was bright and clear, and without colour, smell, or taste, though it contained a few particles of peat at the bottom of the bottle.

“Tests showed the presence of sulphates, muriates, and carbonates of lime, with a little magnesia.

“Its hardness was $7\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, softened to 7° by boiling without evaporation, and to $5\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ when the lime was removed.

“It contained a small quantity of peat in solution, but not enough to give it a taste, and it acted slightly, but very slightly, upon lead.

“No. 5. *The Darran Spring.*

“This water was bright, clear, colourless, without taste or smell, and pleasant to drink.

“Tests showed the presence of muriates and carbonates of magnesia and lime, with a small quantity of sulphates.

“The hardness was $9\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$, reduced by boiling without evaporation to $6\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$.

“This water acted very slightly upon lead.

“No. 6. *The River Dare.*

“This water was bright, and would have been clear but for numerous minute particles of peat floating in it. There was a slight taste, but no colour or smell.

“Tests showed the presence of small quantities of sulphates of lime with muriate of soda.

“The hardness before and after boiling was $1\cdot4^{\circ}$.

“This water acted upon lead, but very slightly.

“No. 7. *The Vicarage Well.*

“This water was bright, clear, and pleasant to drink.

“Tests showed the presence of sulphates, muriates, and carbonates of lime, and a little magnesia.

“The hardness was 12° , reduced by boiling with evaporation to $6\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; and without evaporation, or by lime, to $5\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$; and by removing the lime contained in it to 3° .

“It acted rather freely upon lead.

“No. 8. *The River Cynon.*

“This water was bright, clear, colourless, without taste or smell, and pleasant to drink.

“Tests showed the presence of sulphates, muriates, and carbonates of lime and magnesia.

“Its hardness was 9° , reduced by boiling without evaporation to 8° , and by removing the lime to $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

“It acted but slightly upon lead.

“These eight specimens of water were nearly alike in sensible qualities; (No. 3) that of the Gwawr Spring and (No. 6) that of the River Dare had a slight peaty taste, which, it is not improbable, may increase to an objectionable degree in hot weather. The specimens differed considerably in the quantity of earthy matter they held in solution, and therefore in their degrees of hardness.

“Degrees of Hardness by Dr. Clarke’s Scale.

	Before boiling.			After boiling.			After removing lime.
1.	$1\frac{1}{5}$	-	-	1	-	-	$\frac{3}{4}$
2.	$1\frac{3}{4}$	-	-	$1\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	$1\frac{2}{3}$
3. Gwawr Spring - -	$1\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	—	-	-	—
4. Maes y dre Spring -	$7\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	$5\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	$3\frac{1}{4}$
5. Darran Spring - -	$9\frac{3}{4}$	-	-	$6\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	$7\frac{1}{4}$
6. The River Dare - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	$1\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	—
7. The Vicarage Well -	12	-	-	5	-	-	3
8. The River Cynion -	9	-	-	8	-	-	$3\frac{1}{2}$

“The specimens numbered 1, 2, 3, and 6, are nearly alike as regards their hardness; but those numbered 3 and 6—the Gwawr Spring and River Dare—had a perceptible taste of peat, which, possibly, may be at times strong enough to be objectionable. If therefore, an adequate supply can be procured from one or both of those numbered 1 and 2, the preference will be decidedly in their favour. The taste of the River Dare water is very slight, and the particles of peat floating in it may be easily removed by filtration, by which process, with free exposure to air, the quantity of peat in solution, which is very small, may be somewhat diminished.

“If, therefore, water from the River Dare can always be procured in the state of the specimen sent, and if the two springs first named will not yield a sufficient supply, the river may, with propriety, be resorted to. The other springs yield very agreeable water, but it is too hard to be recommended. Such water, if supplied, would not supersede the necessity of cisterns and butts for catching roof water, with all their attendant expense, trouble, and annoyances. If used for washing, any of these harder waters would occasion a great waste of soap; if for tea-making, would require the use of about half as much more tea to make a hot infusion of equal strength as would be wanted with one of the soft water; they would also be less suitable than the softer waters recommended for cooking and other domestic purposes. Even though it should be considerably more expensive to obtain a supply of soft than of hard water, it will be really more economical to do so, than, for the sake of reducing the immediate expenditure, to occasion the constant losses and inconveniences attending the use of the hard water.

(Signed) “P. H. HOLLAND.

“Whitehall, 17th March 1853.

“None of the waters can, with propriety, be kept in lead cisterns, as they all act upon that metal; nor will cisterns be needed if constant service be adopted.

“These waters will act but little upon pipes if kept constantly full; but as they do act, it would be safer to use other material than lead.”

SANITARY CONDITION.—The returns of births and deaths given at page 10, show a mortality which, both in amount and the nature of the cases, indicates a very low sanitary condition. The medical witnesses who gave their evidence at the present inquiry, all concur in attributing this excessive mortality to the absence of proper sanitary arrangements.

Mr. *Watkins Rhys*, surgeon, states,—

“I practise chiefly in Bute-street, and about Aberamman and Cwm-bach. Until latterly the class of diseases which have chiefly prevailed have been fevers of a typhoid type, with small-pox, and other epidemic diseases, which I attribute almost entirely to organic poisons, arising from imperfect drainage and accumulations of filth. The houses are much crowded together, and many of them have no backlets. We also see a few cases of ague, but not in Aberdare itself. Pulmonic diseases are not very prevalent.

“In last spring we had small-pox severely, and since that time the prevailing class of diseases has been fever. Until within the last six weeks we have never been without fever. I attribute the absence of it now entirely to the unusually heavy rains which have washed away large accumulations of filth.

“I live in Bute-street, and just opposite my residence there are a cluster of houses in which fever has prevailed to a very great extent. These houses are of very bad construction; and having no drains, all the ashes and household slops are thrown out into the street in front; there is but one privy common to about a dozen houses.

“I wish to notice the state of Greenbach. These houses have mostly been built since I came to live in the place. They are densely crowded together, have no outlet, and the same practice of throwing out slops of all kinds into the street prevails. In these houses, during the course of last summer, there were numerous cases of fever and small-pox. In one house there were at the same time two children ill of small-pox; and the mother, when they became convalescent, was attacked with fever, under which she sank.”

Speaking of the want of privy accommodation, this witness states,—

“The atmosphere of the cottages, from the practice of keeping filth in the utensils, is abominable. The filth in front of and about the houses, and the impossibility of getting rid of it, has a demoralizing tendency; it induces people in such neighbourhoods to lose all habits of personal cleanliness.”

He adds, which is probably a consequence of the same evil, that “constipation prevails amongst women to a very great extent.”

Mr. *David Davis*, surgeon, who has resided in the parish nearly nine years, and whose practice extends pretty generally over the whole parish, states,—

“Fevers principally prevail. We have had a great deal of small-pox. We are never without a great deal of typhus fever in the valley. I may say that I am never without eight or nine cases on hand. The population is increasing fast, and the number of cases with it. The town is very badly drained, and I find most diseases in the most filthy localities.

“We have had a good deal of ague here for the last four years. Until then, as far as my recollection serves, I had not seen a single case. This is chiefly confined to *Aberamman* and *Cwm-bach*, which are both low neighbourhoods, and near the river.

“On the whole, though the valley is somewhat deep, I should say this is naturally a healthy district of country. Comparing this with other mineral districts where there are iron works, it certainly has many advantages over them. There is an entire absence of smoke; the valley is tolerably broad, and there is a fine current of air through it.”

Mr. *B. Williams*, alluding to the hurried manner in which houses were built here, to supply the demands of a rapidly increasing population, stated that he had known people to have moved into some of the houses at *Greenbach* before the walls were plastered, and to have remained occupying them during their completion. Possessing houses near this quarter Mr. *Williams* added, that he could confirm all that had been said by Mr. *Rhys* as to its condition.

Mr. *Rhys* observed that he did not consider that the mere living in a damp house, or a new house before it was plastered, would produce that particularly low type of fever which has prevailed to such an extent at *Greenbach*. He attributed it to the effects of putrid miasma.

Cholera in 1849.—Police Sergeant *Parsons* states,—

“I acted as inspector of nuisances during the time of the cholera, and served about 150 notices. Immense quantities of filth were then removed; but the accumulations have since gone on again, and are now as great, or greater, than ever. Many then removed nuisances without any notices being served upon them.

“The cholera was very bad in *Coblers-row*, and in the neighbourhood of the low lodging-houses. It broke out in *Coblers-row*. There was not a house there without a case; and in one house three died. There were 16 fatal cases in *Big-row*, *Abernant*; and 15 died in one day at the small village of *Hirwain*.”

BURIAL GROUNDS.—1. *The Parish Burial Ground.*—There is only one burial ground in the parish in connexion with the Established Church, now in use, and that is attached to the old parish church, situate in the centre of

the town; there are houses near it on two sides. It is a very old ground, about two acres in extent.

The Rev. *John Griffith* states,—

“There is now very little space in this ground unoccupied. The graves now are always dug 6 feet deep, which has not been always the case. Paupers’ graves were formerly dug 4½ feet deep. We have buried as many as three in a single grave; but the majority of graves contain only one body.”

The soil is clay, and naturally damp. *Mr. Griffith* states, that “until the ground was drained last year there was so much water in the soil that the coffins were often floating in it. The drainage now is not very complete.”

The interments during the last five years and a half have been as follows:—*

—	Under 2 years.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Totals.
1848 -	47	21	3	7	21	8	4	6	6	13	5	1	142
1849 -	82	34	15	17	40	36	22	22	12	11	2	-	293†
1850 -	60	23	6	16	32	21	10	9	10	7	5	1	200
1851 -	89	19	10	21	27	13	4	7	3	3	4	1	201
1852 -	88	45	17	35	42	35	12	13	8	9	3	-	307‡
Totals	366	142	51	96	162	113	52	57	39	43	19	3	1,143
1853 :													
January	15	5	-	-	3	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	28
February	6	3	1	2	1	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	18
March -	12	2	1	4	7	2	2	1	1	1	2	-	35
April -	19	1	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	32
May -	8	4	1	4	2	5	3	2	1	1	-	-	31
Totals	60	15	7	11	14	13	7	7	4	4	2	-	144

Parish Church, Aberdare,
11th June 1853.

THOMAS EVANS,
Parish Clerk.

Mr. Griffith adds,—

“The question of providing additional burial accommodation has, for some time, engaged my attention. A Vestry was called four or five months ago to consider the subject, and at an adjourned meeting it was decided to accept a piece of ground for the purpose offered by the trustees of Lord Bute. The new piece of ground is on the west side of the town, about half a mile dis-

* This table was supplied to me since the present report was prepared, and whilst it was passing through the press. It brings the return of interments in the parish churchyard down to the end of the month of May 1853. It indicates a considerable increase of mortality.

† Cholera year.

‡ Small-pox, &c.

tant from the centre, and at a considerable elevation. I think it very well suited for the purpose. The soil is clay. The field is about five or six acres in extent, and it is now quite removed from any houses, and likely to remain so."

Besides the accomodation which will be afforded by the field above described, there will shortly be open for use another piece of ground, about two acres in extent, attached to the new church of St. Fagan, now ready for consecration. This church is situate in Mill-street, in an elevated position, and is sufficiently removed from all dwellings, opening on the west side upon an extensive common. The soil is clay.

It is expected also, Mr. Griffith states, that a piece of ground of about three acres will shortly be obtained for the accomodation of the district of Hirwain, where a new church is to be built immediately, the site of church and burial ground being given by Lord Bute.

There are 13 grounds belonging to various dissenting communities, viz., 6 to Baptist congregations, 5 to the Independents, and 2 to other denominations.

2. The ground attached to the old Baptist chapel, near the centre of the old town.—This ground is 33 yards by 22 yards in extent; it is an old ground, having been first used in 1812. The Rev. Thomas Price, the Baptist minister, states that it is quite full; or, that, at most, there is only room for two additional graves without opening former graves. The soil is clay, and free from water. There are houses near, but not immediately abutting. It is not intended to add to this ground.

3. The ground attached to the new Baptist chapel, near the last named, and situate in Rhinmingeh-road.—This ground is 56 yards by 27 yards in extent, exclusive of the site of the building. The soil is clay, and free from water. There are houses near, but none attached. The graves are dug eight feet deep, and families will be allowed to put in as many as four bodies in one grave. This ground was first used in April last; and at the time of the inquiry 47 interments had taken place in it. At the present rate it will not give accomodation for many years.

4. The ground attached to the Baptist chapel at Hirwain.—This ground is situate in the centre of the village, and surrounded by houses on all sides, but stands somewhat elevated. It is in extent about 30 yards by 26 yards. The soil is gravel, and quite dry. It was first used 30 years ago. The burials have averaged from 20 to 30 annually, and it is now nearly filled.

5. The ground attached to the Baptist chapel in Mill-street.—This is a new chapel and a new ground, and has not yet been used. It is 56 yards by 27 yards in extent. Houses are near on two sides, but not immediately abutting; the other two sides are open.

6. The ground attached to the Baptist chapel at Aberaman, measures 30 yards by 25 yards. It is a new ground, having been first used 4 years ago. Very few interments take place here; about 20 in all since the first opening. This ground is elevated; the soil clay, and free from water. Houses already abut upon it on one side, and are likely to do so on one other. The other two sides are open, and will probably always remain so.

7. The ground attached to the Baptist chapel at Cwm-bach, measures 30 yards by 20 yards. It is on a sloping ground; clay soil, and free from water. Houses abut upon it on one side, the other three sides are open. This ground was first used 12 years ago, and is now nearly filled. The interments average from 40 to 45 annually.

8. The ground attached to the Independent chapel at Hirwain, measures about 45 yards by 30 yards. The soil is sandy and dry; the situation high and open, with the exception of one side upon which houses abut. This ground has been in use about 25 years. The interments in it have been at the rate of about 30 annually, and it is now about three quarters filled.

9. The ground attached to the Independent chapel in Mill-street, is in extent about 30 yards by 25 yards. It lies high, but is surrounded by houses. The soil is clay, and there being no drainage the water lodges in it. This ground has been in use about 30 years; the interments averaging about 40 annually, consequently it is now nearly if not quite full.

10. The ground attached to the Independent chapel at Robert's Town, is about 20 yards square. The soil is gravel, and lying close to the river must necessarily be affected by floods. There are no houses immediately abutting upon it, but some near it on two sides. This ground has been in use about 12 years, and very few interments have taken place in it; not more than three annually, the congregation being small.

11. The ground attached to the Independent chapel at Greenbach, is about 20 yards square. It lies very low, and in the midst of one of the worst parts of the town. It has been in use about 7 years, and not more than from 40 to 50 interments have taken place in it.

12. The ground attached to the Independent chapel at Aberamman, is very small, not more than about 15 yards square. The soil is clay, and houses are near it on three sides. This ground was opened 4 years ago, and the interments have been few—in all about 25 from the commencement.

13. The ground attached to the Wesleyan chapel at Hirwain is a very small one, about 15 yards square. It is situate in the centre of the village, and buildings abut upon it on three sides. This ground is immediately over an old quarry which has been abandoned; the soil is sandy and dry. It has been in use 27 years, and the interments have averaged 4 or 5 annually.

14. The ground attached to the Unitarian chapel in Mill-street is about 30 yards by 15 yards in extent. Houses abut on one side, and are near on two others. The soil is clay, and very wet. It has been in use ever since 1756, and is nearly full; 8 or 10 interments take place in it annually.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

1. That Aberdare is a cottage town and parish in the South Wales Mining District; the population of which has rapidly increased of late years, and is still increasing with greater rapidity than at any period heretofore.

2. That there are no Local Acts in force (with the exception of a Market Act), nor any powers for providing for the sanitary requirements of the place, or the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants.

3. That being situate in a valley, at the confluence of two rivers, the site is occasionally subject to floods.

4. That there is no provision for drainage, and great deficiency of privy accommodation; and that the inhabitants, for want of such provisions, are forced to resort to the most offensive expedients in disposing of their refuse; the greater portion of it being cast upon spots of waste ground, and the public streets and thoroughfares, where it accumulates in heaps and stagnant pools.

5. That there is no public provision for water supply, the major part of the inhabitants resorting to certain springs or spouts, some of which yield water of impure quality; and that the labour and loss of time incurred in procuring a supply of this water are so great as to amount to a serious evil; and that as the population of the place

goes on increasing, this evil must increase also, unless some timely provision be made.

6. That the houses of the working classes from the causes above cited, and from their being crowded closely together and ill-ventilated, are generally very unhealthy and comfortless abodes.

7. That the sanitary condition of the place is very bad, fevers and other zymotic diseases being continuously present; that the deaths from these causes, and of young subjects, are far beyond the average even in manufacturing districts.

8. That the roads are in a state requiring improvement.

9. That although a gas company exists, there is no public lighting.

10. That there is one burial ground attached to the parish church, which is very old, and now quite full; but that further burial accommodation, to the extent of eleven acres, in connexion with the Established Church will shortly be available; that there are thirteen small burial grounds attached to dissenting chapels of various denominations, many of which, from their condition, and from the position in proximity to dwellings, it would be desirable to close.

11. That the comfort and health of the inhabitants would be promoted, and their condition improved, by—

- a.* Drainage of the subsoil in parts.
- b.* A complete system of refuse drainage.
- c.* Proper privy accommodation.
- d.* An abundant supply of pure water.
- e.* Improved ventilation in the dwellings of the working classes.
- f.* Improvement in the state of the roads.
- g.* Lighting of the public streets.
- h.* The closing of some of the existing burial grounds, and the provision of adequate burial accommodation in their stead.

I THEREFORE RECOMMEND—

I. That the Public Health Act, 11 & 12 Vict., be applied to the parish of Aberdare.

II. That the limits of the parish be the boundaries of the district within which the Act be so applied.

III. That the Local Board to be elected consist of 12 members.

IV. That the qualification for a member of the Local Board be, being seised or possessed of property, real or personal, or both, to the value of 500*l.*; or being rated to the relief of the poor on an annual value of 25*l.*

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

T. W. RAMMELL,
Superintending Inspector.

The General Board of Health,
&c. &c. &c.

